

Date: June 1, 2014

To President Obama

Primary Concerns: **“Critical Issues for Providers on Homeless Veterans,”** from Veterans. **Who are the local Providers?**

1. Long-term **planning (Who, What, When and Why)** to serve homeless and at-risk veterans is not properly informed
 - Providers, Town of Gallup, McKinley County, Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico and other States and Federal Government
 - a. VA homeless programs should re-establish their **focus on rehabilitation** as opposed to simply housing or employment.
 - b. A large number of veterans who fall between the Vietnam and Gulf War eras will reach pension age in the next few years— **due to their ineligibility for service-connected pension and potentially other VA benefits**, there may not be enough preventive resources available to address their needs.
2. **Focuses on housing for veterans.**
 - Providers, Town of Gallup, McKinley County, Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico and other States and Federal Government
 - a. Policies give more weight to **national data** than to the intangibles that add value to programs at the local level. **Performance measures are obstacles** to accomplishing the true goals of VA’s homeless programs.
 - b. **HUD-VASH case management is currently unable to address the complex** needs of homeless veterans.
3. Other **offices have not successfully communicated** about the department’s strategies to end veteran homelessness.
 - Providers, Town of Gallup, McKinley County, Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico and other States and Federal Government
4. **Homeless women veterans**, especially those with military sexual trauma, are likely to need more than 90 days to stabilize in transitional housing before potentially moving on to the HUD-VASH Program.
 - Providers, Town of Gallup, McKinley County, Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico and other States and Federal Government

I would like to invite you to Gallup, New Mexico. When would be the most convenient time for you. To see firsthand what our Issues and Concerns are.

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